

Handbook of HER2-Targeted Agents in Breast Cancer

Ricardo Alvarez

Javier Cortes

Mary Falzon

Michael Gandy

Luca Gianni

Nadia Harbeck

Martine Piccart

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Ricardo H Alvarez

University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center
Houston, Texas, USA

Javier Cortés

Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology
Barcelona, Spain

Leticia De Mattos-Arruda

Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology
Barcelona, Spain

Mary Falzon

University College London Hospital
London, UK

Angelica Fasolo

San Raffaele Scientific Institute
Milan, Italy

Michael Gandy

University College London
London, UK

Luca Gianni

San Raffaele Scientific Institute
Milan, Italy

Nadia Harbeck

Breast Center
University of Munich
Munich, Germany

Martine Piccart

Institut Jules Bordet
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium

Stefania Zambelli

San Raffaele Scientific Institute
Milan, Italy

Dimitrios Zardavas

Institut Jules Bordet
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium



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Author biographies

Ricardo H Alvarez, MD, MSc is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He obtained his medical degree at the University of La Plata Medical School, Argentina. He trained in medicine at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston and medical oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He obtained the title of Master in Science from the Graduate School of Biomedical Science at the University of Texas. His main areas of research include advanced breast cancer, inflammatory breast cancer, anti-angiogenic therapy for breast cancer, and work in the laboratory with breast cancer xenograft models. His main clinical activity is in the drug development area in patients with advanced cancer.

Javier Cortés, MD, PhD received his degree in Medicine and Surgery from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 1996. He continued his studies at the University of Navarra, specialising in Medical Oncology. Since 2003, Dr Cortés has worked in the Department of Medical Oncology at the Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, where he is head of the Breast Cancer Unit and Melanoma Unit. He is also the coordinator of the Medical Oncology Training Programme for oncology residents. Dr Cortés is the author of more than 90 publications, focusing on breast tumors and new drugs and has given more than 150 communications at medical conferences. He is an active member of the Spanish, European, and American Societies of Medical Oncology (SEOM, ESMO, ASCO), and member of the Scientific Committee of the European Society of Medical Oncology.

Leticia De Mattos-Arruda, MD is a medical oncologist and translational/clinical investigator at the Medical Oncology Department and Translational Research Program of Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. She is also a PhD candidate at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She has been conducting translational research projects and cutting edge clinical trials

in breast cancer. She is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), and an active member of the ESMO Young Oncologist Committee and Flims Alumni Club Steering Committee.

Mary Falzon, MD is a consultant histocytopathologist at University College Hospital, London and an honorary Senior Lecturer at University College London. She has been a consultant since 1990 and has extensive experience in breast and lung pathology, for which she is the lead clinician at her institution. Dr Falzon has been involved in HER2 testing since its inception and has been instrumental in the setting up of UCL Advanced Diagnostics (UCLAD) as a centre for HER2 testing and interprets tests for various hospitals in the UK and abroad.

Michael Gandy, BSc MSc FIBMS graduated with honors from the University of Northumbria in Biomedical Sciences in 2000. Michael took up the post of trainee Biomedical Scientist (BMS) within the Histopathology Department at St James's University Hospital Leeds, UK where he obtained his state registration as a Clinical Biomedical Scientist (BMS). Whilst practicing, he then went on to complete his Masters degree in Pathological Science at Sheffield Hallam University. In 2004, Michael transferred to Diagnostic Oncology where he focused on biomarker testing, with particular focus the HER2 IHC and ISH testing service and on the technical aspects of breast prognostic and predictive biomarkers. In 2005, Michael took the post of product development supervisor at Leica Biosystems Newcastle where he was involved in the development of a range of antibodies/assays and companion diagnostics systems development for multiple region (CE IVD/FDA) release. In 2010, Michael joined University College London (UCL) as the Lead BMS & Clinical Services Manager at UCL-Advanced Diagnostics (and latterly as Head of Clinical & Research Services for UCL-AD and UCL/Sarah Cannon Labs), the diagnostic arm of the UCL Cancer Institute and the diagnostic service laboratory for UCLH NHS Trust, leading a team of scientists in the largest clinical IHC and ISH referral centre in the UK.

Currently based within the Research Department of Tissue and Energy at UCL, Michael is now helping to develop an Integrated Molecular and Cell Science Laboratory (IMCS), focusing on prognostic and predictive biomarker discovery. He is a UKNEQAS IHC, ISH, and CPT assessor and is a keen contributor to teaching workshops for all levels, lecturing for the University of Westminster Biomedical Science and UCL Cancer Institute MSc Cancer degree courses, and is one of the co-authors of the updated UK HER2 ISH testing guidelines published in 2010.

Luca Gianni, MD is Director of the Department of Medical Oncology and Head of the Strategic Project of New Drug Development in solid tumors at the Ospedale San Raffele in Milan, Italy. He obtained his MD with honors from the State University of Milan, Italy in 1976. He is board-certified in internal medicine and was trained in clinical pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at the clinical pharmacology branch of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, USA from 1980 to 1984. From 1984 to 1998, Professor Gianni has worked at the Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori of Milan, Italy, as a close collaborator of Gianni Bonadonna. In that period, he started the Strategic Program of New Drugs and Phase I studies and the Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology, and became Associate Director of the Division of Medical Oncology. From 1999 to 2011, he took the responsibilities of Director of the Division. For many years, Professor Gianni has worked on new drug development in the field of oncology, and on the pharmacological characterization and clinical application of innovative drug therapies in medical oncology, with special emphasis on breast cancer. Since 1996, he has been coordinator of a European Cooperative Group conducting trials in women with operable breast cancer, and led several trials in the field of neoadjuvant treatment with chemotherapy and with targeted therapies. Professor Gianni has been and is recipient of research grants from public and private funds to conduct clinical and translational studies. He has authored more than 193 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He sits on the editorial boards of many international oncology and pharmacology journals, and is a member of several scientific and medical societies. He is

also Advisor and Expert for Research Applications to the Italian Ministry of University and Research, to the Institut National du Cancer, France (InCA) and to the European Commission. He sits in the Scientific Council of the IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization). In 1997 he co-founded the Michelangelo Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Treatment in Oncology, and is Chairman of the International Board of the Michelangelo Foundation Breast Cancer Study Group. In 2011 Dr. Gianni was awarded the “Gianni Bonadonna Award and Lecture” of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Professor Nadia Harbeck, MD, PhD is the Head of the Breast Center, Oncological Therapy and Breast Clinical Trials Unit, and holds the Chair for Conservative Oncology at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Hospitals Grosshadern and Maistrasse-Innenstadt), University of Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München [LMU]), Germany. From 2009–2011, she was head of the Breast Center at the University of Cologne, Germany. Until 2009, she was Associate Professor and Head of Conservative Senology at the Technical University of Munich, where she obtained her OB&GYN specialist degree in 1998. In 1989, she received her medical degree from the University of Munich. Professor Harbeck is a member of the expert panel issuing the yearly updated evidence-based Working Group for Gynecologic Oncology (AGO) Guidelines for breast cancer therapy in Germany (www.ago-online.de). She is also a faculty and panel member of the International Conference on Breast Cancer in Young Women (BCY 2012) and of the International Consensus on Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC 2011 & 2013). Moreover, she is an executive board member of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC). She is Scientific Director of the West German Study Group (WSG) which focuses on early breast cancer trials with a strong translational research program (www.wsg-online.com) and co-chair of the TransALTTO committee. Professor Harbeck has authored more than 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals and is coordinating editor-in-chief of Breast Care. For her clinical translational research, she has received

numerous awards, including the 2012 Claudia von Schilling Award, the 2002 AGO Schmidt-Matthiesen Award, a 2001 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Research Award, and the 2001 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Fellowship Merit Award.

Martine Piccart, MD, PhD, is Professor of Oncology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Director of Medicine at the Jules Bordet Institute, in Brussels, Belgium. Earning her medical degrees at the ULB and oncology qualifications in New York and London, she is also member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine. With a primary interest in breast cancer and drug development, Dr. Piccart is a leader in international research collaboration and is the principal or co-principal investigator of many clinical trials, including HERA, MINDACT and ALTTO. She is co-founder and chair of the Breast International Group (BIG), uniting 49 academic research groups from around the world and running over 30 trials under its umbrella. BIG's research programs include the European Commission supported TRANSBIG consortium of 28 institutions in 11 countries (running with the EORTC the MINDACT trial) and NeoBIG, an innovative biomarker and drug development program focused on neo-adjuvant trials. Dr. Piccart is active in numerous professional organizations. Since January 2012, she is President of the ESMO. She is immediate past-president of the EORTC, president-elect of ECCO and served on the ASCO Board. (Co) author of more than 420 publications in peer-reviewed journals, she has received numerous prestigious awards for her research contributions including the Jill Rose Award (New York), the William L. McGuire Award (San Antonio), and the Umberto Veronesi Award for the Future Fight against Cancer (Cancun). She has just received the prestigious David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award at the 2013 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting in Chicago.